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LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the negotiations between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Republic of Macedonia concerning a memorandum on the construction of border infrastructure and customs cooperation at the Yugoslav-Macedonian border.

Within the framework of the Working Table of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe on Economic Reconstruction, Development and Cooperation, a meeting was held in Skopje on 10 February 2000 between representatives of Macedonia, UNMIK, the Stability Pact, the European Union and some donors, at which the question of the Blace border crossing between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia was considered. Within the context of cooperation between UNMIK and Macedonia, the construction of border infrastructure this year and customs cooperation were discussed.

Following an agreement reached at the meeting, negotiations are under way in Pristina on a memorandum between UNMIK and the Macedonian customs authority. Macedonian representatives in the negotiations request that the memorandum provide for the establishment of a separate corridor between Macedonia and the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro via Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, for the shipment of goods by Macedonian haulers under the escort of the Kosovo Force (KFOR).

In that context, I would like to recall that, as its name implies, UNMIK is of an interim nature and is not authorized to enter into agreements with neighbouring and other States without the consent of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition to being contrary to the constitutional and legal systems of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in violation of the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is expressly recognized in Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the memorandum would undermine the economic system of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and further destabilize the region. Accordingly, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will consider as null and void any agreement reached by UNMIK in contravention of its authority changing the nature of border crossings

between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Macedonia without approval of the competent authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.